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09/974,853	10/12/2001	Keima Takabayashi	0445-0310P	7444

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EXAMINER

TORRES VELAZQUEZ, NORCA LIZ

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1771

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DATE MAILED: 05/19/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for cleaning sheet that comprises a cleaning area that is a nonwoven fabric made by air-laying and a low-friction area that comprises a film (Refer to examples on pages 17-30), does not reasonably provide enablement for a cleaning sheet with properties (i.e. coefficient of static friction) without a structure. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make the invention commensurate in scope with these claims. There is no structure defining the cleaning sheet of claim 1.

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

4. Claims merely setting forth physical characteristics desired in an article, and not setting forth specific compositions which would meet such characteristics, are invalid as vague, indefinite, and functional since they cover any conceivable combination of ingredients either presently existing or which might be discovered in the future and which would impart the desired

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characteristics. Also, the expressions also are too broad since it appears to read upon materials that could not possibly be used to accomplish purposes intended. *Ex parte Slob* (PO BdApp) 157 USPQ 172.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 09-224895 in view of JP 10-060761.

The JP 09-224895 discloses a sheet for cleaning that is composed of a base material sheet made of a nonwoven fabric and an intermediate sheet, which is tacky adhesive and a front surface of a meshed fabric. The reference teaches that the dirt is entangled with the nonwoven fabric fibers of the front surface sheet and captured by the tacky adhesiveness or the through holes of the meshed fabric. (Abstract) The nonwoven fabric will equate the scraping part of the present invention and the meshed fabric and/or intermediate sheets equate the dust-holding part of the present invention.

However, the JP 09-224895 reference does not teach that the nonwoven fabric is air-laid.

The JP 10-060761 reference discloses a cleaning sheet produced by arranging two kinds of thermally fusible short fibers having a fiber length of 5 mm and different fiber diameters into three-dimensional structures, respectively, by an air-laying method. (Abstract) Since both

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references are from the same field of endeavor, cleaning sheets, the purpose disclosed by the JP 10-060761 would have been recognized in the pertinent art of JP 09-224895. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the nonwoven material of the cleaning sheet with the motivation of preventing gathered dust from dropping as disclosed in the JP 10-060761 Abstract.

7. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 09-224895 and JP 10-060761 as stated above, and further in view of JP 2000-328415.

However, the references of paragraph 6 fail to teach the fineness of the fibers being of 23 to 200 dtex [20 d – 180d].

JP 2000-328415 discloses a nonwoven fabric produced by dispersing staple fibers composed of a hot-melting conjugate fiber of a length of 3-4 mm and a fineness of 30-80 deniers. (Abstract)

The Japanese references cited are from the same field of endeavor, classified under Int. Cl. A47L 13-16.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the nonwoven material and provide it with fibers of fineness of 30-80 deniers with the motivation of making an absorptive article as disclosed by the JP 200-328415 Abstract/Title.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

ARMSTRONG et al. (US 4,186,031)

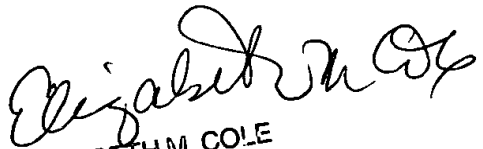
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9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Norca L. Torres-Velazquez whose telephone number is 703-306-5714. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:30-4:00 pm and alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris can be reached on 703-308-2414. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

nl
May 14, 2003


ELIZABETH M. COLE
PRIMARY EXAMINER